Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A replicon of a pestivirus which is incapable of expressing one or more structural proteins of the virus, characterized in that said replicon expresses all structural proteins of a pestivirus except for a functional C ~~and/or E1~~ protein, but wherein the coding sequences encoding ~~the part of~~ a signal sequence within the C ~~and/or the E1~~ protein essential for ~~further downstream~~ post translational processing are retained or replaced by a coding sequence encoding analogous signal sequences from another pestiviral species.

2. (Currently Amended) The replicon according to claim 1, characterized in that at least part of the coding sequence of the ~~E1 or~~ C protein has been deleted from said replicon.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The replicon according to claim 1, characterized in that said replicon is of the Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus (BVDV).

5. (Currently Amended) The replicon according to claim 4, characterized in that the coding region encoding amino acid positions 201-243 of the ~~C protein~~ BVDV polyprotein have been deleted.

6.-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An infectious viral particle of ~~Pestivirus~~ pestivirus, characterized in that it contains a replicon according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for the production of infectious viral particles of a ~~Pestivirus~~ pestivirus ~~according to claim 8~~, characterized in that said method comprises the following steps:

a. ~~Providing~~ providing cells that are permissive for the ~~Pestivirus~~ pestivirus and express ~~Pestiviral~~ pestiviral ~~E1 and/or~~ C protein,

b. ~~Transfecting~~ transfecting said cells with in-vitro transcribed RNA of a replicon according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1,

c. ~~Culturing~~ culturing transfected cells obtained in step b,

d. ~~Harvesting~~ harvesting the viral particles from the cultured cells.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, characterized in that said pestivirus is BVDV.

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, characterized in that said cells express the ~~E1 and/or~~ C protein of BVDV.

12. (Original) A vaccine containing infectious viral particles according to claim 8 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.